
TOWN WARRANT
Special Town Meeting
June 10, 2004

Hampshire, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Amherst, in said county, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify the registered voters of the Town of Amherst of the **Special Town Meeting** to be held in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School in said Amherst at seven-thirty o'clock p.m. on **Thursday, the tenth day of June, two thousand and four**, when the following article will be acted upon by town meeting members:

ARTICLE 1. Discriminatory Foreign Student Fee Resolution (Amanda Burry)

“To see if the Town will vote:

Whereas, in early December 2003 officials at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst announced a new \$65 per semester fee to be charged only to international students, a group singled out to pay this fee solely on the basis of their visa status and national origin,

And, whereas, this fee affects approximately 300 undergraduate students and 1,300 graduate students,

And, whereas, approximately 1,000 of the 1,300 effected graduate students are Graduate Student employees, and, therefore, members of the Graduate Employee Organization, UAW Local 2322,

And, whereas, this new fee was imposed unilaterally without any consultation with the Graduate Employee Organization or the Graduate Student Senate,

And, whereas, this discriminatory foreign student fee took effect in the spring 2004 semester, only two months after it was announced, thereby imposing an immediate financial burden on international students, who in almost all cases are forbidden by federal law from working off campus,

And, whereas, the University of Massachusetts and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has refused to compensate Graduate Student Employees at the negotiated and contracted rate guaranteed in the first two-and-a-half years of the current signed and ratified three-year collective bargaining agreement, resulting, thereby, in considerable financial hardship to the affected Graduate Student Employees,

And, whereas, only approximately one-eighth of the discriminatory foreign student fee will be used to pay for the monitoring of international students via the SEVIS system--manifestation of the federal government's so-called “Patriot Act,”

And, whereas, this discriminatory fee is not a requirement of the Patriot Act or any other federal government legislation or regulation, but rather the result of managerial and budgetary decisions made solely by University of Massachusetts at Amherst administrators, acting under the authority and direction of Chancellor John Lombardi,

And, whereas, the Graduate Employee Organization has worked for the repeal of this new unilaterally imposed fee,

And, whereas, a large number of international graduate students have refused to pay this new fee, thereby putting themselves at risk of administrative withdrawal from the University,

And, whereas, administrative withdrawal would result in loss of academic standing and loss of employment for Graduate Student Employees,

And, whereas, and in many cases, administrative withdrawal would also result in loss of housing for graduate student employees and their families,

And, whereas, the University is pledged to administratively withdraw international graduate student employees who have not paid the new fee as of April 20, 2004,

And, whereas, the University is obliged to report all withdrawn international students to the federal government within 21 days of their being administratively withdrawn,

And, whereas, international students withdrawn from the University are de facto in violation of their student visa status, and, put themselves at risk of immediate deportation,

And, whereas, the Amherst Human Rights Commission has found the foreign student fee to be discriminatory and a violation of the human rights of students singled out on the basis of their visa status and country of origin,

And, whereas, by action of Town Meeting, Amherst is a Union Friendly Town,

And, whereas, international students are highly valued members of the Amherst community,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting call upon Chancellor Lombardi, acting on behalf of the University of Massachusetts, to 1) immediately repeal the new \$65 per semester international student fee; 2) find alternative funding sources to support the University's International Programs Office; and 3) offer amnesty to all international student fee resisters, absolving them of any penalty, financial or otherwise, for having refused to pay this unilaterally imposed discriminatory fee,

And be it further resolved that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting expresses its profound gratitude to those international students, who at considerable risk to their personal well-being have refused to pay this discriminatory and burdensome fee,

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Chancellor Lombardi; to University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson; to University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees Chair, Grace Fey; to the members of the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees; to State Representative Ellen Story; to State Senator Stan Rosenberg; to Congressperson John Olver; and to United States Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry.”

You are hereby directed to serve this call by posting attested copies thereof at the usual places:

Prec. 1	North Amherst Post Office	Prec. 6	Fort River School
Prec. 2	North Fire Station	Prec. 7	Crocker Farm School
Prec. 3	Marks Meadow School	Prec. 8	Munson Memorial Library
Prec. 4	Amherst Post Office	Prec. 9	Wildwood School
Prec. 5	Town Hall	Prec. 10	Campus Center, UMass

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this twenty-fourth day of May 2004.

Anne S. Awad
Robey Hubley
Eva Schiffer
Carl Seppala
Board of Selectmen

Hampshire, ss.

May 26, 2004

In obedience to the within warrant, I have this day as directed posted true and attested copies thereof at the above designated places, to wit:

Sgt. Michael D. Sullivan
Constable, Town of Amherst